

November 3, 1981

Professor D. Allan Bromley  
President  
American Association for the  
Advancement of Science  
1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Professor Bromley:

On October 19, 1981, I attended an informal meeting arranged by the National Academy of Sciences, on the general subject of the problems raised by the so-called "creation science" movement. A diverse group of people representing research scientists, university and school science teachers and both the biological and physical sciences shared information about activities all over the country. It was the consensus of this group that a national effort was required to assist in combating the challenge to the integrity of science teaching that is posed by sophisticated new campaigns. The group agreed that the AAAS could provide this focus better than any other existing organization.

Alternative organizations or the formation of a new organization for this purpose seem less desirable. The AAAS reaches hundreds of thousands of scientists and other citizens through its membership rolls and through its publications SCIENCE and SCIENCE 81. Furthermore, it has as one of its stated goals, the scientific education of students and the public at large. Also, as we learned at the meeting, the AAAS is already undertaking activities in this area.

Among the activities that the group believed important were the dissemination of information in attractive and clearly written materials for use in scientific classrooms and by local groups attempting to preserve scientific education for their youth, and state and local legislators. There is also a need for a central communications center to keep already existing committees of correspondence in 37 states in touch with one another and knowledgeable about the newest tactics of the "creation scientists". Many scientists themselves are presently unaware of the success of "creation science" in introducing its ideas into scientific classrooms and textbooks.

I would urge the AAAS to consider assuming leadership in these vital efforts. Understanding the constraints imposed by limited resources of personnel and money, I assume that extra support may well be needed. The participants in the October 19 meeting would, I believe, stand ready to help, as would other colleagues around the country. Also, since American industry has a clear stake in a flow of well-trained scientists, it might be that industry would be willing to provide the modest sums required.

Sincerely yours,

Maxine Singer, Ph.D.  
Chief, Laboratory of Biochemistry  
National Cancer Institute

cc:

Mr. William Carey